

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An ~~extrudable-extruded~~, melt-mixed thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising
  - (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
  - (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a).
2. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10 under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.
3. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is prepared from water-soluble  $\alpha,\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
4. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer of Claim 3 wherein the  $\alpha,\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated monomers is a monocarboxylic acid, a vinyl polycarboxylic acid, an acrylamide or mixtures thereof.
5. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a cellulosic-graft copolymer, a starch-graft copolymer, a starch-g-poly(acrylic acid), a polyacrylamide; a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly(acrylic acid), a copolymer of sulfonic acid group containing monomer, or mixtures thereof.
6. (Currently amended) The ~~extruded thermoplastic~~ superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 5, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked, partially neutralized, surface treated or combinations thereof.
7. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic

resin is a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ionomers of ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymers, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or blends thereof.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 further comprising a surfactant.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claims 1, 3 or 8 further comprising a polyethylene, a copolymer of polyethylene, a polypropylene, a copolymer of polypropylene or polystyrene.

10. (Currently amended) A method for preparing an ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising the step of extruding a combination of combining:

- (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
- (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a).

11. (original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of combining (c) a surfactant.

12. (withdrawn) A method for producing an extruded or molded article of an extrudable thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising the steps of:

- 1) preparing an extrudable thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer composition comprising
  - (c) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
  - (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a) and
- 2) extruding or molding said thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer composition into an extruded or molded article.

13. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12 wherein the superabsorbent polymer composition further comprising (c) a surfactant.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claims 12 or 13 wherein the extruded article is a monolayer film, a multilayer film, a nonwoven web, a sheet, a foam, a profile, a multilayer laminate, a fiber, a tube, a rod or a pipe.

15. (withdrawn) The method of Claims 12 or 13 wherein the extruded article is a monofilament fiber, a bicomponent monofilament fiber, a spun bond nonwoven web, a melt blown nonwoven web, or a composite comprising combinations thereof.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claims 12 or 13 wherein the extruded article is a nonwoven web comprising a spun bond nonwoven web comprising one or more bicomponent fiber, a melt blown nonwoven web comprising one or more bicomponent fiber, or a composite structure comprising at least one layer of one or more spun bond nonwoven web and at least one layer of one or more melt blown nonwoven web wherein one or more layers of the composite comprise bicomponent fibers.

17. (withdrawn) The composition of Claims 1 or 8 in the form of an extruded molded article.

18. (withdrawn) The extruded or molded article of Claim 17 is a monolayer film, a multilayer film, a nonwoven web, a sheet, a foam, a profile, a multilayer laminate, a fiber, a tube, a rod or a pipe.

19. (withdrawn) The extruded or molded article of Claim 17 is a monofilament fiber, a bicomponent monofilament fiber, a spun bond nonwoven web, melt blown nonwoven web, or a composite comprising combinations thereof.

20. (withdrawn) The extruded or molded article of Claim 17 is a nonwoven web comprising a spun bond nonwoven web comprising one or more bicomponent fiber, a melt blown nonwoven web comprising one or more bicomponent fiber, or a composite structure comprising at least one layer of one or more spun bond nonwoven web and at least one layer of one or more melt blown nonwoven web wherein one or more layers of the composite comprise bicomponent fibers.

21. (withdrawn) The monolayer film or multilayer film of Claim 18 laminated to a metal.

22. (withdrawn) A power cable comprising the metal laminate of Claim 21.

23. (withdrawn) A communications cable comprising the metal laminate of Claim 21.

24. (withdrawn) A power cable comprising the monolayer film or multilayer film of Claim 18.

25. (withdrawn) A communications cable comprising the monolayer film or multilayer film of Claim 18.

26. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent device comprising an extruded or molded article of Claim 18.

27. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent device of Claim 26 is a diaper, a sanitary napkin, a tampon, an incontinence product, a hospital gown or a bed pad.

28. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent device comprising an extruded or molded article of Claim 19.

29. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent device of Claim 28 is a diaper, a sanitary napkin, a tampon, an incontinence product, a hospital gown or a bed pad.

30. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent device comprising an extruded or molded article of Claim 20.

31. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent device of Claim 30 is a diaper, a sanitary napkin, a tampon, an incontinence product, a hospital gown or a bed pad.

32. (Currently amended) An ~~extrudable-extruded~~ thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising

- (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
- (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a), the thermoplastic resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or a blend thereof), the composition having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10

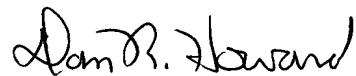
under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.

33. (Currently amended) The ~~extrudable extruded~~ blend of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is present in an amount of greater than 50 parts by weight but less than or equal to 99 parts by weight based on weight of the blend.

Applicant believes that timely submission of this response and maintaining the same number of claims generate no additional fees.

If the Office believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, Applicant respectfully asks the Office to contact the undersigned to set up such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan R. Howard  
Dan R. Howard  
Registration No. 30,070  
Phone: (989) 636-7494

P. O. Box 1967  
Midland, MI 48641-1967  
DRH/akm